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## Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JEANNE SHAHEEN, a Senator from the State of New Hampshire.

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Once to every person and nation comes the moment to decide. Eternal God, the source of wisdom, such a season has come to our Senators. As the Members of this body strive to do the right thing, give them supernatural guidance. Guide them to make decisions that will withstand the scrutiny of generations yet unborn. Infuse their discussions with the civility that engenders respect, objectivity, and pragmatism. Destroy partisan rancor as our lawmakers remember that You are the only constituent they must please. Remind them that indecision is not an option during crisis and that evil usually triumphs when good people do nothing. Lord, only You know the future and which decision will bring the greatest benefits for the most people. As our lawmakers seek to be responsible while not knowing what the future holds, let Your providence prevail.

And Lord, we pray for the thousands in Australia, devastated by the deadly wildfires.

We pray in Your loving Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable JEANNE SHAHEEN led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, February 10, 2009.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable JEANNE SHAHEEN, a Senator from the State of New Hampshire, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,  
President pro tempore.

Mrs. SHAHEEN thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

### SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Madam President, following leader remarks, the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 1, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The time until 12 o'clock will be equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees. At 12 o'clock noon today, the Senate will vote in relation to the Collins-Nelson of Nebraska substitute amendment, to be followed by a vote on passage of the bill. Upon disposition of H.R. 1, the Senate will recess until 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly caucus luncheons.

### RECOGNITION OF THE REPUBLICAN LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

### STIMULUS COMPROMISE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, over the past several months, a series

of frightening economic events have left many Americans without work and many more wondering when the bad news will end. A problem that began in the housing sector spread to the financial sector, triggering even more problems in industries that rely on credit. Major U.S. companies that many Americans never thought were vulnerable have laid off thousands of workers, some for the first time ever. Last month alone, 600,000 Americans lost jobs.

This was the situation when President Obama took office late last month. And, to his credit, our new President has committed himself to working with Congress to fix the economy, a top priority for both parties. A month before Inauguration Day, the President told us that bold legislative action would be needed. He also said repeatedly that he would be careful in spending the taxpayers' money.

The American people were ready to support an economic plan that would work and that wouldn't spend money we don't have on things we don't need. So were Republicans in Congress.

What many of us did not expect, however, was that President Obama wouldn't be the author of that plan. In an odd turn of events, the bold economic plan that President Obama called for ended up being written by some of the longest-serving Democrats in the House of Representatives—and it showed. Tasked with writing a stimulus bill that was timely, targeted, and temporary, Democrats in the House produced an enormous spending bill that was none of the above.

Criticism of the House bill was fierce, so many of us expected that Democrats in the Senate would draft a much better bill. Unfortunately, those hopes turned out to be unfounded. Not only was the Senate bill more expensive than the House bill, it repeated the same mistakes: hundreds of billions in permanent Government expansion, wasteful projects that would have

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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